

# Clinton Currents

Volume 8 ■ Issue 2

Clinton Township ■ Michigan

Fall/Winter 2008

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## Revenue Sharing and You

It's possible that you have heard the term "revenue sharing" in the news, by our state representatives, or senator and by township officials. Like many, it may come across as one of those "government" words that you don't completely understand and you wonder what all the fuss is about.



Did you know that revenue sharing helps pay for essential services that keep you safe? It does this and much more. Revenue sharing has a direct impact on you as a resident of Clinton Township.

### What exactly is revenue sharing?

The State Revenue Sharing program distributes sales tax collected by the State of Michigan to local governments as unrestricted revenues. The distribution of funds is authorized by the State Revenue Sharing Act, Public Act 140 of 1971, as amended (MCL 141.901). Revenue sharing provides a basic level of funding for services to all cities, villages and townships, and to a few counties.

Revenue sharing was designed to be flexible, non-restricted funding that a

community could use to best fit its needs. Local communities rely on revenue sharing to pay for services that directly impact your life.

There are two types of revenue sharing in Michigan: statutory revenue sharing and constitutional revenue sharing. In 1996, the state stopped distributing revenue sharing from the income tax, Single Business Tax and intangibles tax, instead dedicating a percentage of the first 4 percent of the sales tax to revenue sharing. (continued on page 6)



**Festival of the SENSES** CLINTON TOWNSHIP  
Sept 20-21, 2008  
[www.ctfestivalofthesenses.com](http://www.ctfestivalofthesenses.com)

*More information on  
the Festival of the  
Senses on page 2.*

## Clinton Township Directory

Civic Center: (586) 286-8000

Clinton Township Government Offices are open  
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

40700 Romeo Plank Road Clinton Township, Michigan 48038

### Upcoming Board Meetings

September 8, 22 • October 6, 20  
November 3, 17 • December 1, 15, 29

EMERGENCY Police and Fire .....	911
Assessing .....	286-9468
Building, Permits and Ordinance Enforcement .....	286-9323
Engineering .....	286-9387
Planning .....	286-9325
Public Works .....	286-9465
Water Department .....	286-9300
Water After-hours number .....	296-0687
Clerk's Office .....	286-8000
Clerk's Elections Division .....	286-9420
Supervisor's Office .....	723-8092
Treasurer's Office .....	286-9313
Trustees' Office .....	286-9366
Police Department business .....	493-7800
Fire Department business .....	263-8437
United Way Helpful Information .....	211
Parks and Recreation .....	286-9336
Senior Center .....	286-9333
Cable TV and Communications .....	286-9316

CTTV provides gavel-to-gavel coverage of Board meetings every other Monday live at 6:30 p.m. and re-telecasts on Saturday at 2 p.m. and Tuesday of the following week at 8 p.m. Meetings are closed captioned. Information about cable providers in the township can be found by calling: 723-8145.

WPYD-1610AM is the township's information radio station. Tune in for weather information, road construction projects and emergency notices.

**Outdoor Warning Sirens** – The township maintains voice and tone activated outdoor warning sirens throughout the township. The sirens are used to gain the attention of the public who are outdoors. The sirens are activated for severe weather under two circumstances: Tornado Warning for Macomb County and winds of 70 mph or higher are possible along with severe thunderstorm. If you hear the sirens, take cover for your safety.

**Winter Weather Information** – A Winter Storm Watch is upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning when four or more inches of snow or sleet is expected. Winter Weather Advisories inform you that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening.

All Clinton Township Departments are found at the web site [www.clintontownship-mi.gov](http://www.clintontownship-mi.gov)

Volume 8, Issue 2 • Fall/Winter 2008

News and resources for the residents of Clinton Township

Published by the Charter Township of Clinton © 2008

40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp., Michigan 48038


Cable TV and Communications Department:

Director Linda A. Badamo *Clinton Currents* Editor

## Introducing George George Park



Clinton Township's newest park is George George Memorial Park, a gift to the township from businessman James George and his family, in honor of his father. A cascading fountain greets the public as they enter the park from Moravian Drive, south of Cass Avenue.



### 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

September 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
Held at George George Park  
and open to the public.  
Guest speaker: Holocaust  
Survivor Martin Lowenberg

**Annual Clinton Township  
BLOOD DRIVE**  
September 12, 2008  
For More Info: 586.286.9366

### Clinton Township Second Annual Festival of the Senses

**Celebrating Art, Music, Food,  
Theater and Literary Works**  
September 20 and 21

Join Clinton Township in celebrating the arts at the Festival of the Senses, featuring original handmade works of art, crafts, culinary specialties, music, including the Macomb Symphony Orchestra to open the event, and theatrical performances on the outdoor stage. The event is a cultural family event with artistic, historical and educational activities.

Open Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday, September 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission is free, pets on leashes are welcome, and there will be ample parking, shuttle busses, handicapped access, comfort stations, gourmet food and an opportunity to see and purchase the creations of an expected 200 participating artists.

The Festival of the Senses Committee invites you to view the web site for information on how to participate and more festival features at [www.ctfestivalofthesenses.com](http://www.ctfestivalofthesenses.com).



# Clinton Township Board



Dennis C. Tomlinson  
Clerk



William J. Sowerby  
Treasurer



George Fitzgerald  
Trustee



Ernest O. Hornung  
Trustee



Dean Reynolds  
Trustee



Jenifer "Joie" West  
Trustee

## Charter Township of Clinton



The elected members of the Clinton Township Board represent the residents of Clinton Township. The board meets every other Monday in the chambers at 40700 Romeo Plank Road.

Phone (586) 286-8000 to reach your township board members.



Robert J. Cannon  
Supervisor

A great deal of activity has taken place in your community this summer and I will just highlight a few of these things that continue to make Clinton Township a wonderful place to live and work.

The new George George Memorial Park opened with a great deal of fanfare. It is absolutely gorgeous as you can see from the picture on page two of the booklet. Our community is blessed that the George family chose us as a community to honor the family patriarch. Recently, local artist Roy Husken, donated two beautiful paintings that he did of the library and the historic village. We are proudly displaying these in the lobby of the township hall, and, please, stop by and enjoy these remarkable works of art.

Progress continues in the area of re-development in the township. I hope you have had an opportunity to see and visit new businesses in the community which continue to show their confidence in Clinton Township with their investments. Most notable recently are the new Randazzo's Market on Garfield at 16 Mile which previously were vacant buildings, and the new Value City Market which took the place of the former Farmer Jack's at Harper and 16 Mile. Even though residential construction and home sales have been very poor lately, we continue to have substantial investment in all corners of the township in retail establishments.

## Supervisor's Message

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and your health permits you to enjoy the beautiful fall weather that we have come to expect and enjoy in Michigan. A

In 2001, SEMCOG helped secure federal funds for the widening of Cass Avenue, and the Governor also helped with the Michigan First program, thus we have one of the very few road widening projects in the county. I know that it has been very inconvenient, but we should soon begin to see some of the benefits of this very important road project. Every unit of government, including the Macomb County Road Commission, has been hurt by the recent economic downturn. You can refer to the article on page one that deals with revenue sharing to see how we, in the township, are being hurt by these reductions, and why it is occurring.

SEMCOG has produced a long-range forecast of population, households, and jobs for the Southeast Michigan region, and the 233 communities therein. The region is currently experiencing an extended period of decline in jobs and population, led by significant decrease of manufacturing jobs and increasing out-migration of working age population. The region will not gain employment again until 2010 and will not gain population again until 2015. In the long term, the region's overall forecast is one of slow growth from now until 2035. This is just another reason why your township board, our township staff and I work very hard to attract good businesses to replace those that are leaving, and to spend our decreasing tax revenues frugally to insure that we provide the best possible service with our decreasing revenues.

As always, do not hesitate to contact any board or staff member for any issues that concern you or your family.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Cannon  
Clinton Township Supervisor

## Finance Director Retires



Norm Troppens has retired as Clinton Township's finance director after 29 years of dedicated service. Donna Lauretti, assistant director for the past five years, was named the township's new finance director by the township board.



## New Payment Option For Tax and Water Bills

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS FROM A CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR CLINTON TOWNSHIP TAX AND WATER BILLS.

### Advantages of Electronic Payments:

- The service is absolutely FREE.
- No more check writing, trips to the Civic Center, or postage and envelope expenses.
- Your payment is processed over a secure connection.
- Same day tax payment processing and next-day crediting to your account. (Date of transaction will be considered the payment date for tax deadlines.)
- Ability to schedule water bill payments.

### Two payment methods:

- By Internet – Log on to [www.clintontownship-mi.gov](http://www.clintontownship-mi.gov) and use "Bill Pay" tab.
- By Phone – Call (877) 490-5123 for tax bills, (877) 490-5124 for water bills.

### Payment Restrictions:

- Separate payments must be made for each parcel or bill number.
- Only one tax payment allowed on the same parcel within a 7-day period.
- Seven tax payments allowed from a single bank account within a 7-day period for those with multiple parcels.
- Daily closing time for crediting payments is 7 p.m. eastern standard time.

### It's Easy Pay! All you need to have is your:

- Parcel ID (tax) or current bill number (water) listed on your bills.
- Banking information at the bottom of your check:
  - 9-digit routing number
  - Checking or savings account number.

For additional questions or assistance call:  
Treasurer's Office 586-286-9313  
Water Department 586-286-9300

## Healthy Lawn Care Tips for Fall

While most people know that spring and summer are important seasons for taking care of their lawns, did you know that the fall is just as important? On Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) will hold a free Water-Wise Lawn Care workshop at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library main branch, 40900 Romeo Plank Road. Attendees will discover how each of us can make a big difference in the health of our creeks, lakes, drains and rivers by making small changes in our fall and winter landscaping and home practices. For more information and to register for the workshop, call the CRWC at (248) 601-0606.

**Mowing your lawn** Keep your lawn three inches high during the fall. It will help hold moisture in the plant, reduce stress and shade out weeds. You can make your last cut slightly shorter if you expect the grass to grow after the final cut. Avoid dumping grass clippings down storm drains or in waterways. Yard waste that finds its way into waterways can cause significant changes in nutrient levels, leading to poor water quality. Clip 1/3 of the blade and leave your clippings on your lawn. You'll need 1/3 less fertilizer if you leave clippings on your lawn!

**Mulch your leaves** Did you know that leaves can help enrich your lawn's soil? Those colorful leaf "bits" provide much-needed organic matter for your soil. As leaves fall onto your lawn, chip the leaves into smaller pieces by running over them several times with your lawn mower.

If you choose not to mulch your leaves, place them in your garden beds as mulch or follow the instructions for leaf collection provided by your municipality. Be sure to keep leaves away from storm drains and out of waterways.

**Feed in the fall** Fall is generally the most important time of the year for applying fertilizers. Be sure to test your soil if you haven't done so recently and use your soil test results to determine proper application rates. Over fertilizing is worse for your lawn and the environment than under fertilizing. Remember to leave a 10-25 foot buffer between where you fertilize and any lake, river, stream or open drain.

**Time to patch** Seed or sod bare patches of lawn to prevent soil from washing into our lakes and streams and to keep the soil from becoming compacted. Consider covering the newly seeded spots with straw or another product that will help hold moisture in and protect the seeds from being discovered by wildlife. If you are repairing or replacing large areas of lawn, consider using grass varieties that require less water and fertilizer.

**Cut back in spring, not fall** Many perennial plants and ornamental grasses provide vital fall and winter food sources and shelter for native wildlife through the winter. They also provide "visual interest" in your landscape and protect soil from wind erosion. This information on protecting our waterways is from the Clinton River Watershed Council. If you have questions, contact Township Engineer Mary Bednar at (586) 286-9387.



# Clinton Township Begins Update To Its Master Plan

On February 19, 2008, the township Board approved funds to begin the update of the township's Master Plan.

In most basic terms, the Master Plan (synonymous with Comprehensive Plan, Master Land Use Plan or General Plan) is a document defining a future "vision" for the community. General "strategies" are then devised intended to bring the vision(s) to fruition. Each strategy is then advanced with a series of "Programs" and "Policies". The policies and programs act as the building blocks to achieve the "vision". In more specific terms, the Master Plan establishes the "ground rules" for private and public investment. It provides guidelines by which the Planning Commission and Township board can review and evaluate private development proposals. It ensures that individual developments are moving toward the common vision and ensures that public dollars are spent wisely. The Master Plan also provides a basis for refining the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations and other development codes; all of which are used to implement planning policies adopted as part of the plan.

Finally, the Master Plan will also serve as a marketing tool to promote Clinton Township as a unique place to live and establish a business. By promoting the community vision, officials can use the plan to attract new families and desirable investment to the community for years to come.

Public involvement is essential to a successful Master Plan. The township will be actively seeking and encouraging participation of residents, businesses, land owners, religious institutions, charitable organizations and other community stakeholders at the many workshops and visioning sessions will be scheduled throughout the Master Plan process. The workshops and visioning sessions will focus on creating a vision for the future through education and consensus building. Because busy schedules sometimes prevent active

participation from the community, the Township will be scheduling workshops and visioning sessions at various times and days of the week.

Residents will also be asked to fill out an online survey. This survey will provide additional information to guide the plan development. Regardless of your ability to attend the workshops, the township will encourage your participation in the survey. Those desiring to complete a survey that do not have Internet access will be provided an alternate means to provide input into the survey. Please continue to monitor township master plan events through the township cable broadcasts and this newsletter for additional information.



This is an opportunity to be involved in the future development of your community. Residents, business owners and other interested parties can visit the Planning Department page on the Clinton Township website at [www.clintontownship-mi.gov](http://www.clintontownship-mi.gov) to keep updated on the process. The township has contracted with municipal planning consulting firm Community Planning & Management, P.C., also located in Clinton Township, to assist in the development of the plan. Questions relating to the Master Plan can be directed to Planning Director Carlo Santia or Assistant Director Joe Silbernagel at (586) 286-9325.



## Upcoming Elections in Clinton Township

### November 4 – General Election

You must be registered to vote in Clinton Township 30 days prior to an election. By law, the Clerk's Office can no longer automatically mail out applications for absent voter ballots to all registered voters 60 years of age and older. Any registered voter who is eligible to receive an absent voter ballot must request to be placed on the Clerk's Office permanent list to automatically receive applications for all future elections. You can be placed on this list by doing one of the following: stop at the Elections Division at the Township Civic Center at 40700 Romeo Plank Road, or contact the Elections Division at (586) 723-8138 or e-mail the Clerk's Office at [elections@clintontownship-mi.gov](mailto:elections@clintontownship-mi.gov). If you have other questions concerning your eligibility to vote, please contact the Elections Division at (586) 286-9420.

#### VOTING INFORMATION

- Not sure if you are registered to vote
- Not sure where to go to vote
- Not sure who is on the November 4, 2008 ballot

CHECK-OUT THIS WEBSITE:  
[www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote)

This web site will allow you to check if you are registered to vote, show you where to vote in your area and actually give you directions to your precinct. You can also view a sample ballot.



## CTTV now streaming on the web

To find Clinton Township TV on the World Wide Web, go to [www.clintontownship-mi.gov/cttv](http://www.clintontownship-mi.gov/cttv)

### Water Department prepares township fire hydrants for freezing temperatures



Inspection, flushing and winterizing of hydrants is a ritual of the fall season as the Water Department prepares the system for freezing temperatures. Residents may sometimes notice water discoloration as hydrants in the area are flushed. Should this occur, please be aware that the problem is only temporary and running the tap for a short time will clear the water.

Call the Water and Sewer Department at one of the following numbers.

Water and Sewer Department Main Office  
(586) 286-9300, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

Shook Road Maintenance Facility  
(586) 791-1766, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays

After Hours Emergency Number  
(586) 296-0687

ALL WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT  
EMPLOYEES CARRY PICTURE IDENTIFICATION.

### Charter Township of Clinton Building Department

Building, electric, plumbing and mechanical permits must be obtained from the Charter Township of Clinton Building Department before starting any construction work.

ALL REQUESTS FOR BUILDING PERMITS  
REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

A mortgage survey showing location of proposed construction in relationship to the property lines and main dwelling. For more information before you start a home improvement project, call the Building Department at (586) 286-9323.

## Revenue Sharing and You

(continued from page 1)

Constitutional revenue sharing is funded by taking 15 percent of the first 4 percent gross collection of the state sales tax. Statutory revenue sharing is funded by using 21.3 percent of the 4 percent gross collections of the state sales tax. The remaining 63.7 percent of revenue from the 4 percent gross collections is used to fund other state obligations. The remaining 2 percent of sales tax collected is dedicated to the school aid fund.

Due to the method used by the state Legislature to cut revenue sharing in order to balance the state budget, of the 1,242 townships across the state, less than 300 townships receive any amount of statutory revenue sharing. More than 945 townships receive only constitutional revenue sharing.

Clinton Township receives both constitutional and statutory revenue sharing. According to the Michigan Department of Treasury's website, it is estimated that Clinton Township will receive \$7,730,156 during its 2008-2009 fiscal year (\$6,530,140 constitutional and \$1,200,016 statutory). This amount to approximately 60% of the total revenue for the General Fund.

### So how does this affect life here in our township?

Revenue sharing funding, although promised by the state, is also at the mercy of the state's economy and how much revenue the state takes in each year. In recent years, funding for revenue sharing has seen dramatic cuts as the state's economy has lagged. And as we look to future years, with skyrocketing gas prices and people cutting back on extras, revenue from sales tax could decrease, further impacting our revenue sharing funding and local services.

"Clinton Township has experienced a reduction of approximately \$2.4 million in revenue sharing payments from the State when compared to the amount received during the 2001-2002 fiscal year," says Donna Lauretti, Clinton Township finance director.

As lawmakers in Lansing debate over the 2008-09 fiscal year budget, which begins on Oct. 1, 2008, revenue sharing is once again a high profile topic. Now more than ever, money that local communities rely on to pay for essential services that directly impact your lives is continually being threatened. It is important that the township, on behalf of their residents, receives the appropriate level of funding to assist with local services.

Here in Clinton Township, we are doing all we can to make sure our state representatives and senator are aware of how revenue sharing impacts our community. Just like you are counting on us to make this community a wonderful place to live, we are counting on Lansing lawmakers to make sure we receive proper funding from the state.

— Source: Michigan Townships Association